

## HAPPY NEW YEAR — 2009

- ☺ Begin your new year by researching your family tree.
- ☺ May this new year bring you luck in climbing those brick walls that you have been looking at.
- ☺ Encourage others to start looking for their ancestors and to join the South Plains Genealogical Society.



SOUTH PLAINS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 37, No. 1

January 2009

### NEW SPGS LIBRARIAN PAM CASTO

Pam Collette Casto was born in Grainger County in east Tennessee and graduated high school there in 1966. After working three years, she attended and graduated from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. She met her husband, William Richard Casto, while the two were attending the University of Tennessee, and they were married in 1972. After living in several places, including New York City and Columbia, Missouri, Pam and Bill moved to Lubbock in 1983 where Bill took a teaching position at the Texas Tech University School of Law. In November 1984, they had a son named William Richard Casto III.

Pam became interested in genealogy in the late 1970's, while talking with her father and grandmother about the family. She started researching at the McClung Room in Knoxville, Tennessee, and soon became addicted to family history research. After moving to Lubbock, she started volunteering at the Mahon Library when her son was in the second grade.

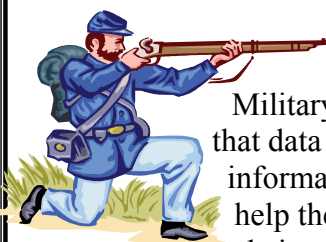
She has held offices in the South Plains Genealogical Society (SPGS); the Nancy Anderson Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution; the Private Isaac Gentry Chapter, United States Daughters of 1812; the Kerenhappuch Norman Chapter, Colonial Dames of the 17th Century; and the Staked Plains Chapter, Daughters of the

### JANUARY PROGRAM:

#### MILITARY RECORDS FOR THE GENEALOGIST

Mahon Library  
Community Room

January 10, 2008  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon



Continuation of information found in later Military Records and where to find that data on the Internet. Much information can now be found to help the family researcher locate their ancestors. Bring your questions and join us for a great program.

American Colonist. She is also a member of the Associated Daughters of Early American Witches; the Huguenot Society of the Founders of Manakin in the Colony of Virginia; and the Ruth Eccles Nugent Tent #2, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Pam is a very hard worker and beginning in January she is the SPGS Librarian in the genealogy section of the Mahon Library in downtown Lubbock. Please plan to visit the library and get to know Pam. She can be very helpful to you in your genealogical efforts.

### NECROLOGY

The South Plains Genealogical Society expresses our sympathy to the family of Ben McDougal, father of member, Barbara McDougal, who died December 22, 2008. A book will be placed in the genealogy collection in his memory.

## THE PORTAL TO TEXAS HISTORY

(Continued from the November Newsletter)

### GEORGE RANCH HISTORICAL PARK

The George Ranch Historical Park is a 23,000 acre working ranch and living history museum. The land was originally settled in 1824 as part of the Austin Colony by Nancy and Henry Jones. Materials focus on the Jones and George families, and the traditional Texas pursuits of cattle, cotton and oil.

### HERITAGE HOUSE MUSEUM

The Heritage House Museum partnered with us to provide access to historical materials from Orange County. Materials include photographs of early citizens, homes, churches, and schools; as well business concerns such as shipping, farming, lumber mills, and oil exploration. Funds for this project were graciously provided by the Summerlee Foundation, The Stark Foundation, and private individuals.

### IRVING ARCHIVES

The Irving archives presents images from two collections, the Charles and Catherine Schulze Collection, and the O. D. and Estelle Bates Collection. Images include photographs of Irving homes, businesses and citizens of the early 1900's.

### JACOB FONTAINE RELIGIOUS MUSEUM

The Jacob Fontaine Religious Museum collections include materials that represent the history of African American churches in the Austin area. The museum is named for Jacob Fontaine, a slave preacher who founded thirteen Baptist churches in Travis County.

### KILLEEN CITY LIBRARY SYSTEM

The Killeen City Library System contributes materials for the great Rescuing Texas History through the Digitization of At-Risk Photographs and Maps. Images include photographs of the Killeen area, early citizens and the library.

### LAREDO PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Laredo Public Library materials include local history materials selected from the grant Rescuing Texas History through the Digitization's Photographs and Maps. Images include photographs of the border area, Fort McIntosh and maps of early Laredo.

### LENA ARMSTRONG PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Lena Armstrong Public Library contributes a ledger that chronicles Confederate members who settled in Bell County, Texas, after the Civil War. The ledger lists veterans by the state they enlisted in, often notes on where particular people fought, and may note a date of death.

[THE PORTAL TO TEXAS HISTORY to be continued in the February Newsletter]

## OFFICERS FOR 2009-2010

President -- Vi Zeeck  
V-President -- Shirley Boyce  
2nd V. President -- Bonnie Kernes  
Secretary -- Mabel Jarrett  
Treasurer -- Charles Zeeck  
Librarian -- Pam Casto  
Director -- Mary Anderson  
Director -- Nadine McDonald  
Director -- Danella Dickson  
Director -- Darnell Dingle  
Webmaster -- Mark Tidwell  
Library Liaison -- Angela Kernell

## PICTURE FRAMING FACTS

Low prices may tempt you to buy decorative frames for your photos, but be careful. Most of them don't come with archival mats or spacers to keep photos from touching the glass. Use UV-blocking glass to protect photos, and do not hang them in direct sunlight. Wood can give off harmful chemicals, so use aluminum or archival plastic frames. If you have heirloom photos, make a good copy of the original, frame it, and hang on the wall. Store the original in a safe place.

Southern Living Magazine, August, 2007

This is a monthly publication of the South Plains Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 6607, Lubbock, TX 79493-6607, which was founded and chartered as a nonprofit organization devoted to assembling and preserving genealogical and historical materials. Membership is open to all persons interested in genealogical and historical research.

## WHO WAS THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES?

I'm sure that George Washington was your best guess. After all, no one else comes to mind. But think back to your history books - The US declared its independence in 1776, yet Washington did not take office until April 30, 1789. So who was running the country during their initial



John Hanson

years? It was the first of eight US Presidents. In fact the first President of the US was John Hanson. I can hear you now— John who? Don't go checking the encyclopedia for this guy - he is one of those great men that are lost to history. You "might" find a brief mention of his name.

The new country was actually formed on March 1, 1781 with the adoption of The Articles of Confederation. This document was proposed on June 11, 1776, but not agreed upon by Congress until November 15, 1777. Maryland refused to sign this document until Virginia and New York ceded their western lands [Maryland was afraid that these states would gain too much power in the new government from such large amounts of land]. Once the signing took place in 1781, a President was needed to run the country. John Hanson was chosen unanimously by Congress [which included George Washington]. In fact, all the other potential candidates refused to run against him, as he was a major player in the revolution and an extremely influential member of Congress.

As the first President, Hanson had quite the shoes to fill. No one had ever been President and the role was poorly defined. His actions in the office would set precedent for all future Presidents. He took office just as the Revolutionary War ended. Almost immediately, the troops demanded to be paid and there were no funds to

pay the salaries. The soldiers threatened to overthrow the new government and put Washington on the throne as a monarch. All members of Congress ran for their lives, leaving Hanson as the only guy running the government. He managed to calm the troops and hold the country together. Hanson ordered all foreign troops off American soil, as well as removal of all foreign flags. He established the Great Seal of the United States, which all Presidents have since been required to use on all official documents. Hanson also established the first Treasury Department, the first Secretary of War, and the first Foreign Affairs Department. He proclaimed the first national Thanksgiving holiday.

The Articles of Confederation only allowed a President to serve a one-year term during any three year periods, so Hanson actually accomplished quite a bit in such little time.

Seven other presidents were elected after him:

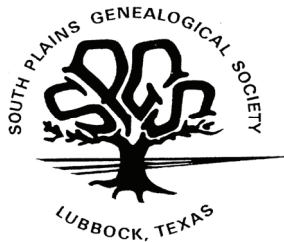
1. Elias Boudinot [1782-83]
2. Thomas Mifflin [1783-84]
3. Richard Henry Lee [1784-85]
4. John Hancock [1785-86]
5. Nathan Gorman [1786-87]
6. Arthur St. Clair [1787-1788]
7. Cyrus Griffin [1788-89]

...all prior to Washington taking office in 1789.

Why don't we hear about the first eight presidents? It's quite simple..The Articles of Confederation didn't work well, The individual states had too much power and nothing could be agreed upon. A new doctrine needed to be written - something we know as the Constitution.

*(To read the entire article go to <http://www.standingstones.com/8pres.html> and check out the various links.)*

[This interesting article was sent in by member Toni Chambers]



South Plains  
Genealogical Society  
P. O. Box 6607  
Lubbock, TX 79493-6607

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LUBBOCK, TEXAS  
PERMIT NO. 800

NEWSLETTER ITEMS: Newsletter items may be submitted to Yvonne Perkins, 2107 54th, Lubbock, TX - 79412-2610 Telephone: 806-747-1319 e-mail: YvonneGengirl@yahoo.com  
Alternate contact: Vi Zeeck at 806-794-6849 or chasviz58@sbcglobal.net

### **AMERICAN'S LACK FAMILY HISTORY KNOWLEDGE**

- ⊛ 1/3 of Americans cannot name any of their great-grandparents.
- ⊛ 1/2 of Americans know the name of only one or none of their great-grandparents.
- ⊛ 6 out of 10 Americans do not know both of their grandmother's maiden names.
- ⊛ 22% of Americans don't know what either of their grandfathers do or did for a living.
- ⊛ Although America is known as a nation of immigrants, 27% don't know where their family lived before they came to America.

The above information came from the March 24, 2008 edition of The Eastman's Online Newsletter. Your editor found it interesting and very true. I am very fond of game shows on television and find that people don't know the answers to "basic" history questions such as,

"Where are the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution kept?" or "What is the capital of your home state?"

As a family researcher in your family we should teach the younger [and older] children the history and how it connects to our families. Tell them who in your family fought in the US Wars or where our ancestors immigrated from, lived, etc. Write a history of your family with all types of data and give it as a birthday present - or next year's Christmas present. They may not start any research but, hopefully, in years to come they will read this and learn more about their family.

**Visit the SPGS website:**  
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>